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a period of four years. All the state officers were to serve for four year terms.

The constitution gave to all white male residents of the State of Deseret over twenty-one years of age the right to vote.

However, under the church government from July, 1847, until the establishment of Deseret in March, 1849, woman suffrage was practiced in Utah. According to Leland Hargrave Creer: "For the second time in the history of the United States, women were given the right to vote in all political matters . . . New Jersey was the first state to allow women to vote . . . This privilege, extended in 1790, was withdrawn, however in 1897."¹ The rights of women to vote in Utah were also withdrawn in 1849.

FUNCTIONING OF THE STATE OF DESERET

In accordance with the provisions of the constitution, elections were held to ratify the constitution and to elect officers. The following men were elected:

Brigham Young	Governor
Willard Richards	Secretary
Newel K. Whitney	Treasurer
Heber C. Kimball	Chief Justice
John Taylor	Associate Justice
Newel K. Whitney	Associate Justice
Daniel H. Wells	Attorney General
Horace S. Eldredge	Marshal
Albert Carrington	Assessor and Collector of Taxes

Joseph L. Heywood	Surveyor of Highways
Bishops of the various wards.....	Magistrates

The State of Deseret also had its militia. It was organized by Daniel H. Wells and Charles C. Rich. The old name of Nauvoo Legion was revived and applied to this Utah military organization.

One acquainted with Utah history of pioneer days immediately recognizes two things—that the majority of the officers elected to preside over the State of Deseret were selected from among the high Mormon Church officials, and that all of the men elected were among the

¹ Leland Hargrave Creer, *Utah and the Nation*, 62.

most capable citizens in the territory. Brigham Young was, without doubt, the best choice for governor. Likewise Richards, Whitney, Kimball, and Taylor were well qualified for civil positions because of their experience as church executives. The others selected were also men of ability.

Although the Utah pioneers had established a civil government, yet in actual practice they were still being governed by the church officials. There was a complete blending of church and state, so intimate that it was difficult to distinguish in which capacity the official was acting—whether in his civil or church office.

This was but the natural development under those conditions where another organization was imposed upon an already efficiently working one. It was to be expected that a fusion of church and state would continue as long as most of the people in Utah were of one religious faith. Under those conditions the citizens looked to their church leaders, who had very successfully led them in all other affairs, to guide them in politics.

It was also the natural thing for the General Assembly, in establishing inferior courts, to select the bishops of the various wards as magistrates. They and their counselors were already functioning as magistrates of church courts; therefore, the machinery was already set up for them to be civil judges.

In case of a dispute between two Mormons, a bishop's court tried the case and gave the verdict. But if two non-Mormons or a Gentile and a Mormon had trouble, perhaps they brought their grievance before the same bishop. But this time he acted in the magisterial capacity conferred upon him by the constitution and civil laws of the State.

Thus the judicial control of Deseret remained in the same hands, whether under church or state organization. This arrangement, advantageous in efficiency and economy, was very satisfactory to the major portion of the people.

Lieutenant Gunnison, Captain Stansbury, and others who visited Salt Lake City while the State of Deseret was the governing organ were favorably impressed with the

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equitable way in which justice was administered to Mor-
mons and non-Mormons alike. In the words of Stansbury:

"The jurisdiction of the State of Deseret had been
extended over and was vigorously enforced upon all who
came within its borders, and justice was equitably ad-
ministered alike to 'saints' and 'gentile'—as they term
all who are not of their persuasion. . . .

"Their courts were constantly appealed to by com-
panies of passing emigrants, who, having fallen out by
the way, could not agree upon the division of their prop-
erty. The decisions were remarkable for fairness and
impartiality, and if not submitted to were sternly en-
forced by the whole power of the community."

The General Assembly of the State of Deseret was
elected by the people on March 12, 1849. It consisted of
a Senate and a House of Representatives. On July 2,
it convened in its first session and remained the govern-
ing unit of Utah until April 5, 1851.

The General Assembly of the State of Deseret held
sessions at regular intervals at Salt Lake City, making
laws for the benefit and growth of the new common-
wealth. The first law passed provided for a state and
county road commission for the purpose of providing
good highways in this frontier wilderness. The second
law incorporated the University of Deseret.

Some of the other laws passed by this governing
body were: to establish county recorders; to elect a sur-
veyor general whose work was to keep a record of all
surveys made; to prohibit the sale of liquor and arms
and ammunitions to the Indians; to regulate control of
streams, timber, and industries; to incorporate Salt Lake
City, Ogden, Manti, Provo, and Parowan; to incorporate
the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints; and to
establish a stray pond for cattle which were destroying
the crops of the pioneers. The last law passed was a reso-
lution to send a block of Utah marble to be placed in the
George Washington Monument at that time being con-
structed at Washington, D. C. These laws were ratified
by the Territory of Utah.

* J. Howard Stansbury, *An Exploring Expedition to the Valley of the Great Salt Lake*, 180.